



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Emma Best
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 60383
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516
60383-53390936@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2019-002025
Request No. 1416844¹
MWH:JNW

VIA: Email

Dear Emma Best:

You appealed from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to records concerning Dana George Mead. I note that your appeal concerns the FBI's refusal to confirm or deny the existence of responsive records. Please note that this Office was closed due to a lapse in funding appropriations between December 22, 2018 and January 25, 2019, which resulted in a delay in responding to your appeal.

Please be advised that Department of Justice regulations provide for an administrative appeal to the Office of Information Policy only after there has been an adverse determination by a component. See 28 C.F.R. § 16.8(a) (2018). No adverse determination has yet been made by the FBI, so there is no action for this Office to consider on appeal.

As you may know, the FOIA authorizes requesters to file a lawsuit when an agency takes longer than the statutory time period to respond. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(C)(i). However, I can assure you that this Office has confirmed that your request is currently being processed. If you are dissatisfied with the FBI's final response, you may appeal again to this Office.

This Office has forwarded a copy of your letter to the FBI. You should contact the FBI's Requester Service Center at (540) 868-1535 for further updates regarding the status of your request.

¹ While you did not reference a request number in your appeal, please be advised that this Office has interpreted your appeal to be challenging the action of the FBI in Request No. 1416844 because the subject matter in your appeal mentions the subject matter in this request.

If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

6/26/2019

X 

Matthew Hurd, Associate Chief, for
Sean O'Neill, Chief, Administrative Appeals ...
Signed by: MATTHEW HURD